

EPA NO. U590002FILE NO. L1-54 NOV 13 2000

Davis Graham &amp; Stubbs LLP

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2118835

November 10, 2000

## VIA FACSIMILE/U.S. MAIL

Lauren C. Buehler, Esq.  
U.S. EPA, Region 8  
Ref. 8ENF-L  
999 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500  
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Re: *In the matter of Hecla Mining Company, Docket No. RCRA 8-99-06*

Dear Ms. Buehler:

I'm writing on behalf of Hecla Mining Company in response to your e-mailed letter and attached list of concerns with respect to Sampling and Analysis Plans (SAPs) submitted on Hecla's behalf in connection with the RCRA § 3013 Order issued in this matter. Hecla is pleased to know of your client's concerns, noted on the referenced list, and believes that, due to some apparent misunderstandings, as well as additional thought on the part of Hecla, many of those concerns can be addressed to your client's satisfaction in specific revisions to the referenced SAPs.

While Hecla appreciates this opportunity to respond to EPA's additional concerns with the SAPs previously submitted to your client, we regret that the EPA has chosen to express its concerns in the form of a written ultimatum, and are hopeful that we can, by responding substantively to those concerns, return our dialogue and planned actions to a more productive and conciliatory mode. Please be assured that, although Hecla is keenly interested in avoiding unnecessary expense or engaging in tasks with little perceived environmental benefit, we are committed to the sound and proper reclamation of the facility in question, resulting in a closure of that impoundment which is protective of human health and the environment.

We further regret not having responded to your letter by the Wednesday, November 8, 2000, deadline expressed in your e-mail of Friday, November 3, 2000; however, we note that, while Hecla has requested an extension of time previously in these proceedings, we have generally been prompt in producing our comments and proposed work plans to EPA. The vast majority of delay associated with these proceedings is attributable to EPA drafting, review and comment, in our view.

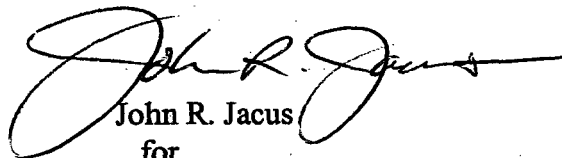
John R. Jacus • 303 892-9400 • John.jacus@dgsllaw.com

Lauren C. Buehler, Esq.  
November 10, 2000  
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Finally, with respect to each specific concern noted on the list attached to your e-mailed letter of November 3, 2000, we expect to have specific, substantive responses to each such concern developed and forwarded to you in writing no later than the close of business next Monday, November 13, 2000. We are hopeful that this timeframe is acceptable to your client under these circumstances, and we will proceed to follow through in submitting those responses to you by that date.

Please feel free to contact me at your convenience concerning this letter, the substantive responses to your client's list of concerns, or any related matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Jacus", with a stylized flourish at the end.

John R. Jacus  
for

Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP  
Attorneys for Hecla Mining Company

cc: John N. Galbavy, Esq. - Hecla  
Mr. Gary Nelson - Hecla



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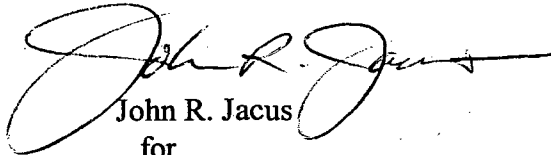
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John R. Jacus

for

Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP

Attorneys for Hecla Mining Company

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Mr. Gary Nelson - Hecla